

Dumont Shade Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes
Dumont Senior Center, Monday, November 19, 2012 7:35pm

Sunshine Law: The Dumont Shade Tree Commission has complied with the open public meeting act, having sent notice to The Record, Ridgewood news and filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Borough's Official Bulletin Board

Present: Abbie Slaman, Ray Slaman (arrived 7:45pm), Tom Fisichella, Rafael Riquelme, Ryan Mertz, And Larry Tobias

Absent: Sally Tayeb

- 1- Motion to approve the previous October meeting by Tom and second by Ryan. All approve.
- 2- **Tree Maintenance:** Tom will collect a listing of all town trees affected from Hurricane Sandy. Tom will compile list from John Perkins, Police, and DPW reports. Will follow-up with DPW of all trees taken down. With the list, Tom will follow-up within a month on status and results for each tree affected. Private trees won't be included on this list. We have fewer trees down compared to last year's storm. Looking at other towns, Dumont had fewer trees down because of our proactive stand in regards to tree maintenance. A question was asked about who is liable about damage to private property from a town tree. It was concluded that town is not liable. Homeowners will need to follow-up with their insurance company or the State.
- 3- **Adopt- a-Tree:** 32 fall planting trees will be done by the end of November. Trees will be purchased from the NJ Tree Federation.
- 4- **I-Tree-** Larry stated that he is working in entering block 4 to the system. He mentioned that I-Tree 5.0 version is available.
- 5- **Friends of Shade Tree:** Corrections were made for the 501 application. The By-Laws are done. Will add conflict of interest statement. Ryan will submit within few weeks. A check for \$300 will be required for processing fee. Application could be reviewed in the future for any changes and corrections.
- 6- **Arboretum Walk way:** Approved by Mayor and Council. Most likely work will start in spring, but it won't be done for Arbor Day in April. Discuss concerns about the Gazebo maintenance, location, possible graffiti and expenses. Ray mentioned he has two pages of people interested for donor/sponsor bricks for the walk way.
- 7- **Permit for Removal of Trees recommendation:** DSTC will like to draft an ordinance for requirement for permit for removal all trees to avoid misunderstanding in regards to town tree versus private tree issues. This will bring a formal process to the removal of trees in Dumont. This will avoid town trees from been removed without approval from the Shade Tree. The Shade Tree will certify if it is a town tree or not. Private trees could be removed after it is determined that the tree in question is not a town tree. Will also bring guidelines for removal, which is good for Dumont and value for the town. Permit charges to be discussed. Ways to inform residents on new ordinance was discussed if ordinance passes. Landscapers, arborists, and insurance companies will be

notified. A letter could be sent when the Tax Bill Notification is mailed. Building Dept. will enforce the new regulations.

- 8- Community Information Public Meeting to discuss tree maintenance, issues, and storm assessment. Certified Tree Expert on hands with any questions and concerns. Tentative date is January 20, 2013, 7pm, at the Senior Center.
- 9- **Community Outreach for new Homeowners:** Package with a welcome letter, tree maintenance information, and adapt-a-tree application.
- 10- **Soil Text Kit:** There are different kinds of kits available with costs up to \$3,000. Shade Tree looking for basic kit for about \$200. Ryan to follow-up.
- 11- **Depew/Honiss Road Project discussion:** To expand road and removal of three (3) Oak Trees. Option to move trees to a new location or removal of trees with compensation about 8-10 trees from the project.
- 12- **Commissioner needed:** replacement needed for Commissioner Riquelme due to been elected to the Dumont Council. Resignation in effect 12/31/12.
- 13- **New Business:** a) FEMA money for new planting. b) Looking were to plant new trees from the flood project allocation.

Adjournment 9:04pm